

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A playback apparatus, comprising:
  - 2 a data source (1) that provides a data stream signal (d0);
  - 3 a device (2) that is responsive to said data stream signal and forms a first data stream (d1) in a
  - 4 second data format (F1), wherein said first data stream (d1) includes a data field (D1) in a
  - 5 second data format (F2);
  - 6 a code converter (3) that is responsive to said first data stream (d1), and converts selected
  - 7 parts of said first data stream (d1) in the second data format (F2) to a second data stream (d2)
  - 8 having data encoded in a third data format (F3); and
  - 9 an output decoder (5) for forming playback signals from the second data stream (d2).
- 1 2. The playback apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
  - 2 a buffer (7) responsive to said first data stream (d1) and located electrically parallel to said
  - 3 code converter (3), that provides to said output decoder (5) a third data stream (d3) whose data
  - 4 format corresponds to said third data format (F3).
- 1 2. The playback apparatus of claim 2, wherein said second and third data streams (d2, d3) are
- 2 selectively applied to said output decoder (5) by a control unit (4).
- 1 3. The playback apparatus of claim 3, wherein said code converter (3) provides a detection

2 signal (dz) to said control unit (4) indicative of the presence of said first data format (F1) and/or  
3 said second data format (F2), and said control unit (4) determines whether to provide said second  
4 data stream (d2) or said third data stream (d3) to said output decoder (5) in response thereto.

1 4. The playback apparatus of claim 4, wherein said data source (1) comprises a storage device  
2 (1.6) that can be exchangeable/removable from said playback apparatus.

1 5. The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said storage device (1.6) is at least partially  
2 mechanically driven.

1 6. The playback apparatus of claim 6, wherein said control unit (4) changes the read rate of  
2 said storage device (1.6) in response to the detection signal (dz).

1 7. The playback apparatus of claim 7, wherein the read rate of said storage device (1.6) is  
2 dependent upon speed of a motor that is regulated at a predetermined value by said control unit (4)  
3 via a motor controller (1.5).

1 8. The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said device (2) comprises means for detecting  
2 an error in said input data stream (d0) and for providing a first error signal (f1) indicative thereof,  
3 said code converter (3) comprises means for detecting an error in said first and second data  
4 streams (d1, d2) and generating a second error signal (f2) indicative thereof, wherein said first

5 and second errors signal (f1, f2) are provided to said output decoder (5).

1 9. The playback apparatus of claim 2, wherein said buffer (7) provides temporal  
2 compensation between said second and third data streams (d2, d3).

1 10. The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said storage device (1.6) contains data (dq)  
2 assigned to a first data format (F1), and that at least one data field (D1) of successive data packets  
3 (P1.0, P1.1, P1.2) of the first data format (F1) contains data packets (P2.0, P2.1, P2.2) of the  
4 second data format (F2), whose contents correspond essentially to the information to be  
5 reproduced.

1 11. The playback apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:  
2 a programming device (8) that first converts a data (dx) of the information to be stored to  
3 the second data format (F2) and provides a resulting data sequence (ds) that is then converted to  
4 the first data format (F1) to provide a data sequence (dw) that is written to said storage device  
5 (1.6) to form stored data (dq) resident on said storage device.

1 12. The playback apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a manually controlled switch,  
2 wherein said second and third data streams (d2, d3) are selectively applied to said output decoder  
3 (5) by said manually controlled switch.

1 13. A playback apparatus that is responsive to a data stream signal provided by a data source,  
2 said playback apparatus comprising:

3 means responsive to said data stream signal, for forming a first data stream (d1) in a first  
4 data format (F1), wherein said first data stream (d1) includes a data field (D1) in a second data  
5 format (F2);

6 a code converter that is responsive to said first data stream (d1), and converts selected  
7 parts of said first data stream (d1) in the second data format (F2) to a second data stream (d2)  
8 having data encoded in a third data format (F3); and

9 an output decoder (5) for forming playback signals from said second data stream (d2).

1 14. An audio playback apparatus that provides an audio playback signal to an audio transducer,  
2 said audio playback apparatus comprising:

3 a data storage device that provides an encoded data stream signal (d0);

4 a device (2) that is responsive to said encoded data stream signal and forms a first data  
5 stream (d1) in a first data format (F1), wherein said first data stream (d1) includes a data field  
6 (D1) in a second data format (F2);

7 a code converter (3) that is responsive to said first data stream (d1), and converts selected  
8 parts of said first data stream (d1) in the second data format (F2) to a second data stream (d2)  
9 having data encoded in a third data format (F3);

10 a buffer (7) responsive to said first data stream (d1) and located electrically parallel to said  
11 code converter (3), that provides to said output decoder (5) a third data stream (d3) whose data  
12 format corresponds to said third data format (F3);

13 an output decoder (5) for generating the audio playback signals; and

14 means for selectively applying one of said second data stream (d2) and said third data  
15 stream (d3) to said to said output decoder (5) to form the audio playback signals that are output to  
16 the audio transducer.